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**Usage**

This source is considered a primary reference for the following articles:

- Types of Systems
- Groupings of Systems
- Systems of Systems (SoS)
  - Architecting Approaches for Systems of Systems

**Annotation**

Maier examined the meaning of SoS in detail and used a characterization approach to create a definition (Maier 1998, 267-284). In this paper, the five characteristics of, or criteria for, systems of systems (SoS) are defined. It is the most frequently cited paper for SoS definition.